

Senator Hall's amendment isn't the best but it is one that he is hoping that will pass because maybe there are some people here that are Christian enough to think they ought to feed the hungry. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rod Johnson please. The question has been called. do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator Hall, would you like to close on your amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR HALL: Yes, Mr. President, and members. What we are talking about is \$138 maximum. \$138 is the maximum amount. Most people would not qualify for that. That means that they would be receiving less. The average benefit amount would be approximately \$107. That would be an \$8 increase over the current \$99 that we are at now. It is not a big increase. It is not an increase that affects just the urban people. It affects sugar beet plants out in western Nebraska. It affects small industrial plants in Kearney. It affects any business that employs people. Businesses employ people to make money. When things are going well, they make money and unemployment insurance is there for when things aren't going so well and those employees are laid off or let go. So it is a cost of doing business. It is a cost that every employer knows that they have to bear when they get into business. It is not a giveaway, it is not a gift. It is something that every employer understands, every employer is willing to commit to. They just don't want to commit to the appropriate level, at least in my eyes, and I hope in all of yours. I don't think \$138 is an appropriate level but it is a place to start and I hope you are willing to support that. The bottom line is, you know, what we are talking about is we are talking about self-respect. How are each one of you addressed every morning when you come to the Unicameral? You are addressed by your title. My wife has even taught my three year old daughter to call me Senator. You know we recognize people by what they do for a living. We call doctors doctors. We call dentists dentists. We call plumbers plumbers and we call garbage men garbage men. That is what they do for a living. We are saddled with that our entire life. Nothing else affects us so greatly as a